

S/N 10/524,155

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Steven D. Kloos et al.

Examiner: Krishnan Menon

Serial No.: 10/524,155

Group Art Unit: 1797

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Docket No.: 1330.013US1

Customer No.: 49747

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Title: RESIDENTIAL REVERSE OSMOSIS SYSTEM

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CLAIMS FOR EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

amend the claims as follows:

1-37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:

a manifold including one or more threaded sockets;

a plurality of cartridge housings removably attachable to the threaded sockets; and

a base leg including a plurality of cartridge holding portions to support a distal end of each of the cartridge housings, wherein at least one of the cartridge holding portions is adapted to engage an outer portion of each of the cartridge housings such that the at least one cartridge holding portion can be used to either tighten or loosen the cartridge housing from one of the threaded sockets.

39. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein each of the cartridge housing includes ridges on an outer surface of the cartridge housing to engage the at least one cartridge holding portion.

40. (Original) The system of claim 38, wherein the base leg includes a generally triangular shape.

41-43. (Canceled)

44-71. (Canceled)

72. (Currently Amended) A reverse osmosis (RO) system comprising:  
a manifold;  
a leg;  
a plurality of housings that engage the manifold on one end and ~~is~~ are supported by the leg on an opposing end, wherein the leg is adapted to engage each of the housings such that the leg can be used to insert at least one of the housings relative to the manifold; and  
a plurality of membrane elements within the housings, wherein at least one of the housings includes ridges on an outer surface of the housing such that the leg engages the ridges to rotate the housing relative to the manifold.
73. (Canceled)
74. (Previously Presented) The reverse osmosis (RO) system of claim 72 wherein at least one of the housings threadingly engages the manifold when the leg rotates the housing in one direction and removes the housing from the manifold when the leg rotates the housing in an opposing direction.
75. (Previously Presented) The reverse osmosis (RO) system of claim 72 wherein at least one of the housings includes exterior threads that engage interior threads on the manifold.
76. (Previously Presented) The reverse osmosis (RO) system of claim 72 further comprising a pre-filter within one of the housings.
77. (Previously Presented) The reverse osmosis (RO) system of claim 72 wherein each one of the housings is the same size.
- 78-86. (Canceled)

87. (Currently Amended) A reverse osmosis (RO) system comprising:
- a manifold;
  - a leg;
  - a plurality of housings that engage the manifold on one end and are supported by the leg on an opposing end, wherein the leg is acts as a wrench that secures each of the housings to the manifold; and
  - a plurality of membrane elements within the housings.
88. (Previously Presented) The reverse osmosis (RO) system of claim 87 wherein the leg includes a plurality of openings such that the opposing end of each housing is positioned within one of the openings when the leg is supporting the housings.
89. (Previously Presented) The reverse osmosis (RO) system of claim 87, wherein at least one of the housings includes ridges on an outer surface of the housing such that the wrench engages the ridges to rotate the housing relative to the manifold.
90. (Previously Presented) The reverse osmosis (RO) system of claim 87 wherein at least one of the housings threadingly engages the manifold when the wrench rotates the housing in one direction and threadingly disengages the housing from the manifold when the wrench rotates the housing in an opposing direction.

91. (Previously Presented) The reverse osmosis (RO) system of claim 87 further comprising a pre-filter within one of the housings.

92. (Previously Presented) The reverse osmosis (RO) system of claim 87 wherein the leg is adapted to be attached and detached from the opposing end of each housing.

93. (Previously Presented) The reverse osmosis (RO) system of claim 72 wherein the leg is adapted to be attached and detached from the opposing end of each housing.

94. (Previously Presented) The reverse osmosis (RO) system of claim 38 wherein the base leg is adapted to be attached and detached from the distal ends of each of the cartridge housings.

95. (Previously Presented) The reverse osmosis (RO) system of claim 72 wherein the leg includes a plurality of openings such that the opposing end of each housing is positioned within one of the openings ~~opening~~ when the leg is supporting the housings.

96. (Previously Presented) The reverse osmosis (RO) system of claim 38 wherein the base leg includes openings such that distal ends of each cartridge housing are positioned within one of the openings when the leg is supporting the cartridge housings.

### REMARKS

This paper responds to the Office Action dated September 26, 2008. Claims 38-39, 72-76 and 87-95 are amended such that claims 38-40, 72-77 and 87-96 are now pending in this application.

#### Interview Summary

Applicant thanks Examiner Menon for the courtesy of a telephone interview on October 2, 2008, with Applicant's representative Andrew R. Peret. Applicant's attorney and Examiner Dinh agreed that the claims as amended herein appear to overcome the pending rejection because the cited reference does not include (i) a plurality of cartridges housings in combination with a leg as recited in the claim 38; or (ii) a plurality of housings in combination with a leg as recited in the claims 72 and 87. Examiner Dinh also indicated that claim 38 as amended herein would be allowable but indicated that a review of the particular language that would be used in amended claims 72 and 87 would be required.

#### §112 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 38-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. As discussed during the interview, Applicant has amended claims 38 and 39 in order to address the Examiner's rejection.

#### §102 / §103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 38-40, 72-77 and 87-96 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for anticipation by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Beeman et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0104157). A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *M.P.E.P.* '2131. To anticipate a claim, a reference must disclose every element of the challenged claim and enable one skilled in the art to make the anticipating subject matter. *PPG Industries, Inc. V. Guardian Industries Corp.*, 75 F.3d 1558, 37 USPQ2d 1618

(Fed. Cir. 1996). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

As discussed during the interview, Beeman does not describe “a base leg including a plurality of cartridge holding portions to support a distal end of each of the cartridge housings, wherein at least one of the cartridge holding portions is adapted to engage an outer portion of each of the cartridge housings such that the at least one cartridge holding portion can be used to either tighten or loosen the cartridge housing from one of the threaded sockets” as recited in amended claim 38. In addition, similar language has been added to claims 72 and 87 such that Applicant respectfully submits that Beeman does not describe “a plurality of housings that engage the manifold on one end and are supported by the leg on an opposing end, wherein the leg is adapted to engage each of the housings such that the leg can be used to insert at least one of the housings relative to the manifold” as recited in amended claim 72; or “a plurality of housings that engage the manifold on one end and are supported by the leg on an opposing end, wherein the leg is a wrench that secures each of the housings to the manifold” as recited in amended claim 87.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's representative at (262) 646-7009 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date \_\_\_\_\_ By \_\_\_\_\_  
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 4, 2008.

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